

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 COLOMB 02560 161307Z

46

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 DIWY-01 VO-03 SCA-01 OMB-01 CU-02

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /078 W

----- 036169

R 161156Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5267

INFO USUN NEW YORK 494

C O N F I D E N T I A L COLOMBO 2560

E.O. 11652:GJW

TAGS: PFOR, CE

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR'S CALL ON SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF DEFENSE
AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MDFA)

1. SUMMARY: DURING AMBASSADOR REED'S MEETING OF JULY 16 WITH MDFA SECRETARY W.T. JAYASINGHE, JAYASINGHE SAID US/SRI LANKA RELATIONS HAVE "NEVER BEEN BETTER." THE AMBASSADOR EXPRESSED REGRET PRIME MINISTER (PM) WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO VISIT WASHINGTON AT TIME SHE ADDRESSES UNGA THIS FALL AS SPOKESWOMAN OF NON-ALIGNED. JAYASINGHE EXPLAINED THAT PM PLANS TO GO AND RETURN FROM NEW YORK AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE, SO THAT OPPOSITION COULD NOT ACCUSE HER OF TRAVELING ABROAD AT TIME COUNTRY WAS EXPERIENCING "ELECTION FEVER". AMBASSADOR KANAKARATNE WILL HEAD SRI LANKA'S UN DELEGATION, OTHER THAN WHEN PM IS PRESENT, BECAUSE OF UN PERMREP SHIRLEY AMERASINGHE'S ASSUMPTION OF UNGA PRESIDENCY. JAYASINGHE LEFT IMPRESSION WE MAY HAVE DIFFICULTY OBTAINING VISAS FOR ALL ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL WE PLAN TO BRING IN CONNECTION WITH NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT. END SUMMARY.

2. DURING VERY CORDIAL TALK WITH W.T. JAYASINGHE, SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MDFA), JULY 16, JAYASINGHE EXPRESSED CONSIDERABLE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 COLOMB 02560 161307Z

SATISFACTION OVER PRESENT STATE OF US/SRI LANKA

RELATIONS.IN UNCHARACTERISTICALLY ENTHUSIASTIC FASHION, JAYASINGHE,WHO IS USUALLY QUITE TACTITURN, SAID THAT OUR RELATIONS HAVE "NEVER BEEN BETTER." HE ATTRIBUTED THIS IN PART TO THE EFFORTS OF AMBASSADOR KANAKARATNE IN WASHINGTON AND AMBASSADOR VAN HOLLEN HERE.AMBASSADOR REED AGREED NOTING THAT AMBASSADOR KANAKARATNE HAS BEEN VERY EFFECTIVE AND THAT HE IS HIGHLY RESPECTED BY EVERYONE.

3. AMBASSADOR REED EXPRESSED REGRET THAT PRIME MINISTER BANDARANAIKE WOULD BE UNABLE TO PLAN A VISIT TO WASHINGTON WHEN SHE GOES TO THE UN THIS FALL BUT INDICATED WE UNDERSTOOD HER INABILITY TO DO SO. JAYASINGHE RESPONDED THAT THERE WILL BE "ELECTION FEVER" IN SRI LANKA AT THAT TIME. WITH THIS IN MIND, IT WAS DECIDED THAT THE PM SHOULD JUST GO TO NEW YORK AND STRAIGHT BACK SO AS TO SPEND AS LITTLE TIME AWAY FROM COLOMBO AS POSSIBLE. SHE DID NOT WANT TO BE CRITICIZED FOR TRAVELING ABROAD FOR AN EXTENDED PERIOD OF TIME WHICH THE OPPOSITION COULD SEIZE AS AN ELECTION ISSUE.JAYASINGHE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT THE PRIME MINISTER STILL WANTS TO VISIT THE U.S. AND HOPES TO DO SO ONCE THE CEYLONESE ELECTIONS ARE OVER.

4.IN CONNECTION WITH THE UNGA, JAYASINGHE SAID THAT AMBASSADOR KANAKARATNE WILL LEAD THE CEYLONESE UN DELEGATION THIS YEAR OTHER THAN WHEN THE PRIME MINISTER IS IN NEW YORK.THIS WILL BE NECESSARY AS SHIRELY AMERISINGHE , SRI LANKA'S UN PERMANENT REP, WILL BE ASSUMING THE PRESIDENCY OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

5/ IN THE COURSE OF THE CONVERSATION,JAYASINGHE RAISED THE PROBLEM OF LIMITING NUMBER OF ADDITIONAL STAFF DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS WOULD BE ALLOWED TO BRING IN AT THE TIME OF THE NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT CONFERENCE. HE SAID THE DECISION HAD BEEN TAKEN TO ALLOW ONLY TWO OR THREE TO ENTER NOTING THAT THEY WERE HAVING DIFFICULTY WITH OTHER MISSIONS WHO WERE REQUESTING VISAS FOR UP TO 40 OR 50 ADDITIONAL PERSONS.AMBASSADOR REED PROVIDED JAYASINGHE WITH COPIES OF LETTERS WE HAD SENT TO MDFA
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 COLOMB 02560 161307Z

REGARDING PERSONNEL WE WISH TO BRING IN FOR THE CONFERENCE AND WHICH ASKED THAT THE MINISTRY SUPPORT OUR REQUEST FOR

VISAS. JAYASINGHE SAID THE WOULD LOOK INTO THE MATTER BUT LEFT IMPRESSION THERE MAY BE DIFFICULTY IN OBTAINING APPROVAL FOR MORE THAN TWO OR THREE PERSONS.

6. FINALLY,JAYASINGHE SEEMED VERY PLEASED THAT HIS

EIGHTEEN-YEAR OLD DAUGHTER HAD WON AN AMERICAN FIELD
SERVICE SCHOLARSHIP AND HAD LEFT FOR THE U.S.JULY 15.
HE INDICATED HE HAD HAD SOME MISGIVINGS REGARDING
HER DEPARTURE BUT HAD BEEN REASSURED BY A NICE LETTER
FROM HIS DAUGHTER'S HOST FAMILY WHO LIVE IN LATHAM,
NEW YORK.
REED

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, AMITY, NONALIGNED NATIONS MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976COLOMB02560
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760275-0171
From: COLOMBO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760752/aaaabszf.tel
Line Count: 122
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 APR 2004 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <17 AUG 2004 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AMBASSADOR'S CALL ON SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF DEFENSE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MDFA)
TAGS: PFOR, CE, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006